

Port Orford Free Press

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A Publication of Citizens For A Free Port Orford

A Great Big Thank You

I would like to extend thanks to the community of Port Orford for their participation in the first annual 5k walk/run. We had a wonderful turn out with over forty participants. Everyone was smiling and having fun! The top five runners were; Sawyer Heckard, Jake Van Dam, Kaden Ashdown, Christian Gomez and Buster Webb each received trophies for their outstanding performance. I would also like to thank Amity Valet for her inspiring signs they kept us going and laughing, and Grand Marshal Brett Webb for being the time keeper. I think I speak for everyone involved when I say I look forward to next year's 5k!

The skate demo later in the day had a great turn out as well, where everyone was a winner. We handed out stickers, skateboards, accessories, and t-shirts from our generous sponsors Main Street Skate of Brookings and the Timebomb Exchange of Coos Bay. Thank you to all who were involved you made it an amazing day. I would like to especially thank the parents for bringing the kids out to skate, without you it just wouldn't have been the same.

Thank You All,
Dawn Stancliff
Event Coordinator
Port Orford Jubilee

City Council Meeting

– Staff Reporter

Thursday afternoon at 3:30 the city council meeting was held with an audience of modest proportion in attendance.

First were the addition to the agenda. The mayor stated that he would read them, however “due to changes in the council rules” they would not be allowed to be acted on until next meeting. Councilor Clancy immediately asked “when was the vote?”, and pointed out that the council “never voted on these changes”. The mayor waffled and stated that he thought they had all agreed to this at the last meeting [ed: this is only half true – they all agreed to discuss it and consider it further, only]. Councilor Clancy again pointed out that the rules had not changed, and no vote had been taken to do such.

The mayor continued on his endeavor and did not allow three additions to the agenda (presumably his own items, as no

councilors made the requests for the items, and none voted to keep them on) – discussion of the engineer's review of the water master plan (they didn't even have a copy to review), a resolution to approve a planning grant, and a final reading of the burn ordinance (which had not even been read once at this point). [ed. We found this exercise very strange and rather pointless mr mayor.]

There were no presentations to the council.

Citizens Concerns

The mayor presented a petition that had been signed by several residents against the huge unsightly burn piles on the North end of town – near 20th and Jackson, and stated that the city had decided to consider it as a nuisance complaint [ed. However, he never stated what action would be taken on the complaint]. Current rules allow open burning with a permit, piles of 10x10x10 feet, or burn barrels. **Sarah Heart** stated the slash piles at the end of 20th and Washington are “as high as a two story house,” and there are 4 piles, along with snags left hanging – a very dangerous situation. Councilor Clancy stated that “something needs to be done about those large piles immediately.” **Teresa Kolibaba** agrees with a burn barrel option, and the need for citizens to be able to burn personal information for security reasons, but there should be severe penalties for burning toxic material by repeat offenders. She wants to see a leash law as some people don't leash their animals when walking them and create issues for others around them. She asked what an 'EDU' is in the sewer study – Dave '11%' Johnson responded with Equivalent Dwelling Unit, the mayor added “typical household water/sewer use”. She then asked the mayor to justify his attendance at a 'leadership institute' and the OMA conference, she asked “what exactly is it you do there?” The mayor responded “talk to other mayors, state agencies, and things”, “I have a scholarship to pay my way”, “I'm serving, doing Redfish Rocks public service, and things”, chuckling. **Gary Wickham** suggests we “shouldn't burn anything” as toxic fumes are an issue, especially for the young. He suggested that the ordinance was poorly written and the police chief will be busy dealing with it – and cardboard and paper should be recycled, not burned, and why isn't the fire department involved and not the chief [ed: it should be pointed out the fire department is contracted by the city for its services, they are not a city agency and don't work for them as such]. **Vicki Courtright** asked about the limitation of the 4x4x4 foot piles in the new ordinance – would she be able to add to an existing pile as it burned, or “only one pile until out?”, and requested they reconsider this wording. **Jack Pruitt** favors a complete burn ban, and with the state/county moratorium from June thru October we can get used to not burning and just continue as such. Barrels are a source of toxic pollution, and several other cities

have now banned all open burning – its a good time for us to do the same. **Pat Rice** was curious why the cited ordinances in the new burn ordinance could not be included, at least for reference. She had issues with the May 15th minutes and a correction to her statement to be “don't be afraid to speak out.” Also several items on the city website, had errors and confusions. She agrees with the use of burn barrels.

Departmental Reports

City Admin/Public Works: Water loss is lowest in several years. Crew fixed a couple of major leaks, replacing old black poly pipe that has degraded in place. Councilor McLeod asked what lines were at risk here, PW responded that it was old black poly pipe in service lines failing, not main lines.

Finance: Councilor Clancy asked about a check to Kenneth Gunn for \$2K, and told by the Admin that it was for work on registering the Lindberg House, and would be reimbursed by a grant. Councilor McLeod asked about payment to Shoji Planning, and asked for an accounting of what actual work was done.

Police: Officer Levi was present in Chief Coombs absence, stated traffic was up and they were preparing for the music festival, although it will have its own security staff.

Planning: The mayor suggested that councilors attend meetings if they want more information.

Committee Liason Reports

School – none

Chamber/TLT – Council President Pogwizd and Councilor Billings reported the grants were finalized.

Fire – Councilor Clancy reported they had 16 members in attendance, the hydrants had been tested with various results.

Parks – Councilor Billings reported they discussed the ribbon cutting ceremony and Park host rules.

Watershed/Lake/Health – none

Port/ORT – It was reported lots of visitors attended, an RFC for the new cannery building, dredging is about to start, new manager officially on board, and Bassett elected as chair.

County – County Commissioner Itzen was in attendance to make his bid for the Jail Levy that will be on the next ballot in the amount of .68/1000 assessed value – there will be no reduction of other county taxes, the general fund will absorb the previous jail funds for 'other uses'. Itzen made such statements as “The Sheriff says the jail will be lost within a year if not properly funded”, “The Sheriff believes it can be fixed with a \$1.6 million separate fund”, and “the jail is essential.” The mayor asked if it will then be on next year's tax statement, and Itzen said “No, if passed this September, it will be on your November statement this year,” they are going through some special process to be able to tax us immediately. There was concern expressed that the county employees, including the commissioners, all just got raises, and now they want to

increase our taxes significantly. Itzen said the increase was a 2.8% COLA and only amounts to \$52K in the budget – very small compared to the \$1.6million jail budget. And he stated, the raises were necessary to “fairly renumerate” the staff for working harder now that they are fewer in number. Itzen went on to say the Sheriff resigned over discouragement of staff turnover and lack of cooperation [ed: from whom? Commissioners or staff]. Councilor Clancy asked if the jail levy was the same for all cities, and elsewhere alike? Itzen said yes, the levy was for all properties in the county, and the same across the board.

Old Business

First Reading of Ordinance 2015-01 – Burn Ordinance

The ordinance sets controls and standards for open burning within the city limits, allowing burn barrels and burn piles of 4x4x4 feet in size. Councilor Clancy suggested banning all open burning, but allow burn barrels. Councilor Billings was concerned about allowing the burning of cardboard and wood products. Council President Pogwizd favors barrels and ban all else, allowing no processed or painted wood, brush and branches only. Councilor McLeod asked about the burn piles on 20th as being legal, and the mayor said no, she then said she favors burn barrels only, with no paper or other toxic debris. McArdle wanted to ban all burning, but it would be impractical, so is ok with the ordinance as is. Schofield agreed, leave it as is, saying “let people burn what they want.” Council President Pogwizd asked if she was downwind how she would feel? She stated she “wouldn't enjoy it, but on private property they should be able to do what they want.” City Admin mentioned that there was a nuisance ordinance on the books whereby something that “creates a fire hazard” is a nuisance, and a burn pile is a known fire hazard, but the burn ordinance requires burn piles to dry out so they don't smoke as much, which makes them more of a fire hazard. Councilor Clancy suggested that this ordinance places a lot of pressure on the police chief, and its not his job. Council President Pogwizd made a motion that the ordinance be modified “to allow burn barrels, but no open burns on the ground, including 'burn to learn' exercises by the fire department, and the contents are limited to branches, brush and paper only – no treated/painted lumber. Councilor Clancy seconded – the motion passed 5 yes, Schofield NO.

New Business

TLT Grant, from committee recommendations. Council President Pogwizd made the motion to accept the recommendations as received, McArdle seconded – passed with a 6/0 vote. Councilor Clancy added that she wanted to go on record that the \$5K grant for Main Street is to build a wall on what is clearly ODOT property, and that the city is not responsible for maintenance, upkeep, etc.

Letter asking the County to consider donation of the Au Franc to the city after forecloser. Councilor Clancy stated she can't support this, and does not want it donated to the city, as the city truly cannot

afford to take on the project. Councilor Billings - “Its just a letter”, Councilor Clancy - “But we're not interested in it”, Mayor - “Parks is”. Council President Pogwizd – “we're just expressing interest, its just a letter”, Councilor Clancy - “And how much property tax will we loose?” Motion made by McArdle, seconded by Councilor Billings – motion passed 4 yes, Councilors McLeod and Clancy – NO!

Jail Levy discussion. Councilor Billings recused himself as his daughter works at the jail. Council President Pogwizd supports the Levy, Councilors Clancy, McLeod, McArdle and Schofield suggested they take no position and do nothing either way. Council President Pogwizd made a motion to openly support the County Jail Levy, there was no second, and the motion died. The mayor then tried to get a motion passed whereby the councilors would not actively and openly oppose the levy [ed: they call these gag orders elsewhere], but the councilors rightfully disagreed.

At this time Itzen jumped back in with a second wind, but to no avail. Eventually he went away, and thanked the mayor, at least for his support.

Continuing items

The City Admin asked when the council could meet with the engineers on the water master plan, and the date of August 12, 2014 at 1:30 PM has been selected for the 'workshop'.

Councilor Billings said the leash law will be discussed at the parks meeting this month.

Citizens Considerations

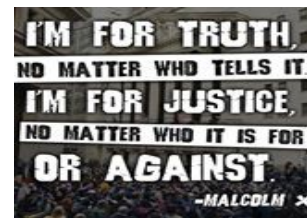
Teresa Kolibaba – announced an earthquake survival skills workshop being held August 2nd weekend at Edison Park on the Sixes River. She mentioned that she has seen the city use the black poly pipe that is now leaking around the city in many places, not just service lines. She also thought the jail levy would be taxing us twice for the same purpose. And additionally pointed out that without the burning of the excess, the dump will quickly fill up. **David Smith** reported that lots was happening at the school board and a new heating system is going in at the high school. **Jack Pruitt** asked if the levy was a super majority vote (50% of voters must cast ballots), and was told by the mayor it was. He then again asked the City Admin about the information he requested at the last meeting which she promised to him “in two days”, because he never received it. She stated she had talked to an auditor about the loan, but couldn't remember any details, except it was not beneficial to retire the loan [ed: for who, us or them?], and she would get back to him again next month. Councilor Clancy and President Pogwizd requested she also provide them with the details of why this is not beneficial to us, specifically. Dave '11%' Johnson said going to the open bond market our rate would likely go up. Jack stated we need to have the debt forgiven, not refinanced, and asked what our current rate is? Dave '11%' Johnson, did not know. Jack stated when the developers come in, they need to pay

into our infrastructure as part of the hookup fee. **Gary Wickham** mentioned equipment is available to burn and create electricity, and was disappointed over the Jail levy results. **Vicki Courtright** stated all sides of her property are adjacent to city property and according to ordinances she is responsible for maintaining the right of way, and now with no burning allowed this will create an extra expense for her to clear and maintain the ROW.

Staff and councilor considerations

City admin said the chief wished to see all burning banned, and he supports the jail levy.

Councilor Clancy wants to find a way to let responsible burn users continue, perhaps a special area or such. **Councilor Billings** said the 4th celebrations went well. **Council President Pogwizd** said the burn ordinance was a tough decision and asked the City Admin to contact Curry Transfer about yard waste pickups. The mayor mentioned the special meeting scheduled for July 28th at 3:30 PM to go over the burn ordinance for the final reading and final vote of approval.



Using Archive.org

Archive.org is a free site where the public can store media of various types for free distribution to all. The site contains video, text, and audio files from all genres. We have chosen this site to make available back issues of the POFP, as well as videos of important meetings here in Port Orford – City Council, Special Meetings, etc.

To use the site, set your browser to 'archive.org'. Then on the main page you will see, in the upper left hand portion of the screen, a 'Search' box. Enter 'Port Orford', and hit return – you will see over 100 entries covering the last several years. You can also enter 'Port Orford 2014' to get just this year's postings.

At the listing, click on the item you wish to view, and it will be presented giving you the option to view it, or even download it to view later, print it out, etc.

Notice

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